

A MARVEL COMICS® EVENT IN SEVEN PARTS

CIVIL WAR™

#4



WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?

CIVIL WAR

After Stamford, Connecticut is destroyed during a televised fight between the New Warriors and a group of dangerous villains, public sentiment turns against super heroes. Advocates call for reform, and a Superhuman Registration Act is debated, which would require all those possessing paranormal abilities to register with the government, divulge their true identities to the authorities and submit to training and sanctioning in the manner of federal agents.

One week later, the Act is passed. Any individual with paranormal powers who refuses to register is now a criminal. Some heroes, such as Iron Man, see this as a natural evolution of the role of superhumans in society and a reasonable request. Others view the Act as an assault on their civil liberties. After being called upon to hunt down heroes in defiance of the Registration Act, Captain America goes underground and forms a resistance movement.

As the two factions meet in combat at an abandoned chemical plant, the battlefield is sundered by a tremendous bolt of lightning, heralding the appearance of the mighty Thor!



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THOR,
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING?

IT'S ME,
MAN. THE
FALCON...

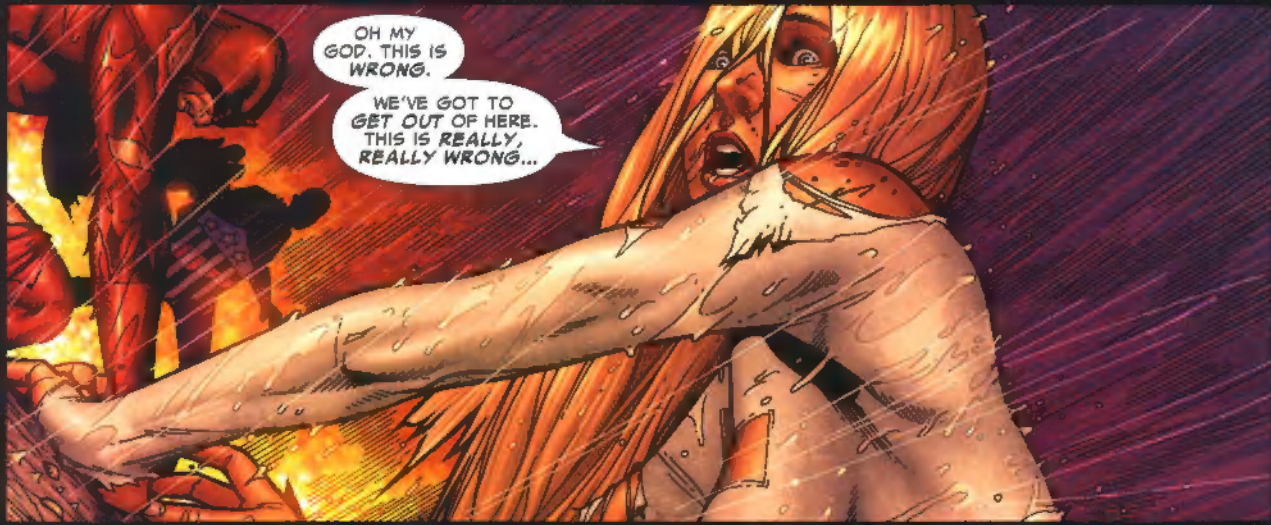
WHERE HAVE
YOU BEEN?
EVERYBODY
THOUGHT
YOU WERE
DEAD.



NO,
DAGGER.

THAT
WOULD BE
YOU.







CAP, PLEASE, DON'T
GET UP. I DON'T WANT
TO HIT YOU AGAIN. YOUR
JAW'S PRACTICALLY
HANGING OFF.

JUST SURRENDER,
AND I'LL GET YOU
MEDICAL ATTENTION
FROM THE S.H.I.E.L.D.
PEOPLE OUT THERE.



YOU REALLY
THINK I'M GOING
DOWN--

--TO SOME
PAMPERED
PUNK LIKE
YOU?



IRON MAN TO
ALL POINTS:
ACTIVATE YOUR
AUDIO-BLOCKS.

THIS IS
GOING TO
HURT...



AAAAAAAAAAAAH!!



OH, LORD. THIS IS HORRIBLE. I CAN'T EVEN LOOK...

I DON'T LIKE IT EITHER, SUE, BUT AT LEAST THIS WAY THERE'S NO BROKEN BONES.

STAND DOWN, THOR. THE S.H.I.E.L.D. CLEANUP SQUAD CAN HANDLE THINGS FROM HERE.



YOU'RE A TOUGH OLD BIRD. I'LL GIVE YOU THAT. THIS FREQUENCY PUTS THE HUMAN BRAIN INTO SHUTDOWN, BUT LOOK AT YOU. YOU'RE STILL GETTING UP.

I'M SORRY, CAP. I'LL TRY TO MAKE IT QUICK. JUST CLOSE YOUR EYES AND YOU'LL WAKE UP IN OUR SUPER HERO DETENTION CENTER...

EMERGENCY ARMOR WARNING--



HUH?

NON-HUMAN ATTACK REGISTERED--





FALCON!
SEE TO CAPTAIN
AMERICA! WE
NEED TO GET
HIM OUT
OF HERE!



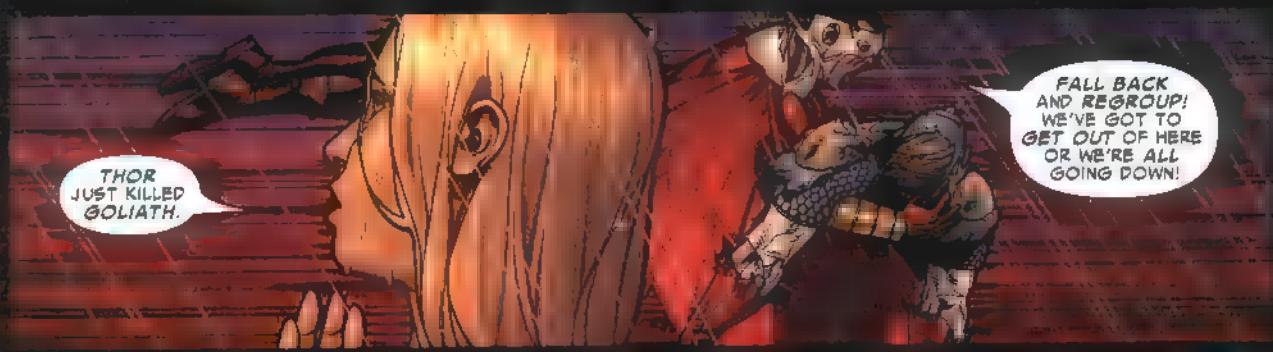
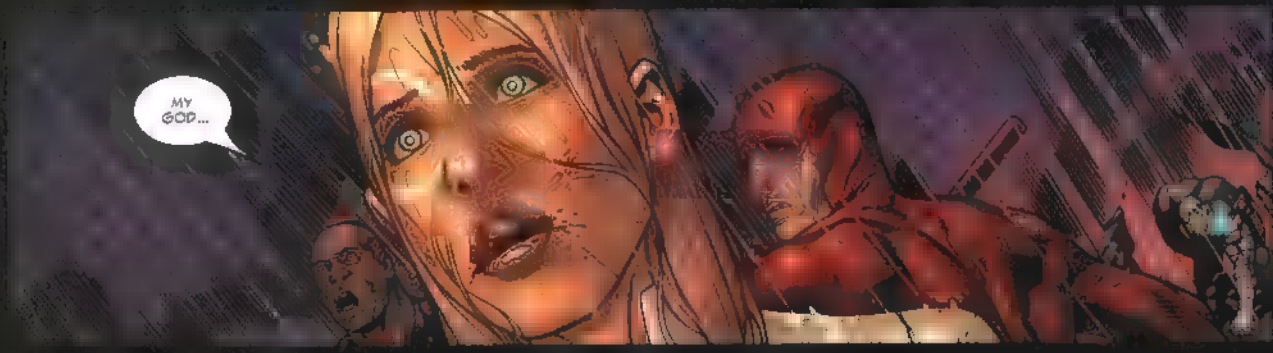
HALFWAY
THERE,
HERCULES.

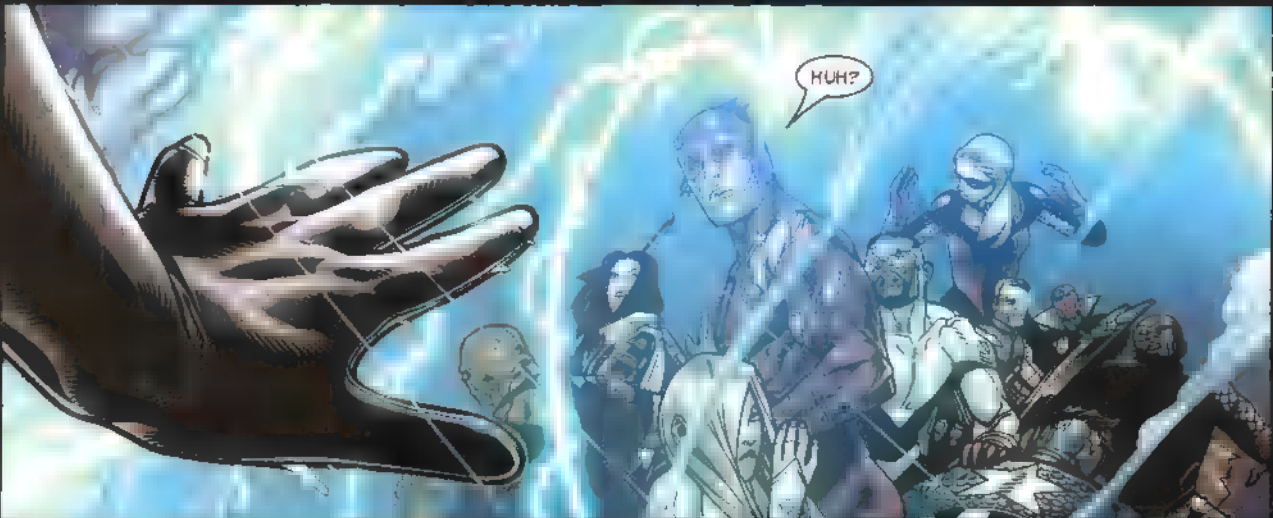


CABLE, I NEED
YOU TO INTERFACE
WITH CLOAK'S MIND
AND ACTIVATE A
TELEPORT.

EVERYBODY
ELSE CAN GATHER
'ROUND AND HITCH
A RIDE BACK
HOME.









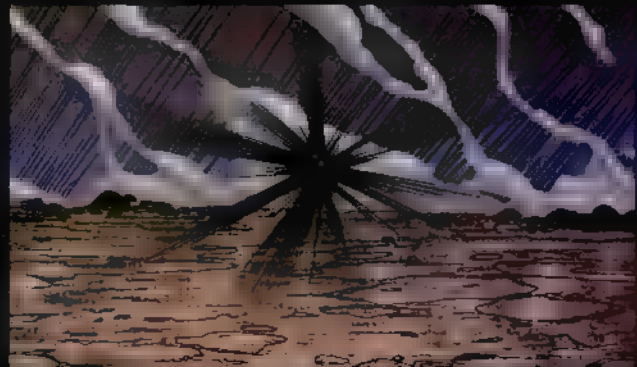
WHAT ABOUT OUR
WOUNDED AND DOWNED?
WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE
THEM BEHIND...

YOU'RE WELCOME TO
STAY IF IT MAKES YOU
FEEL BETTER, SON.
EVERYBODY ELSE: FALL
IN TIGHT. WE'RE ONLY
GOING TO GET ONE
SHOT AT THIS...



SUSAN.

THANK
YOU.

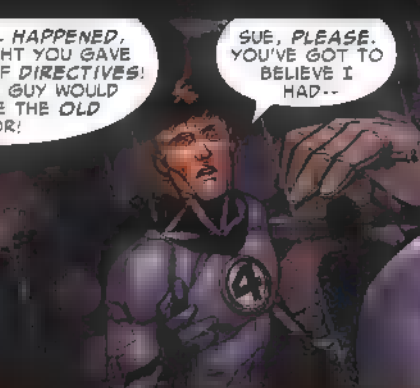


SHUTDOWN CODE
"RICHARD WAGNER
EIGHTEEN-THIRTEEN
TO EIGHTEEN
EIGHTY-THREE."





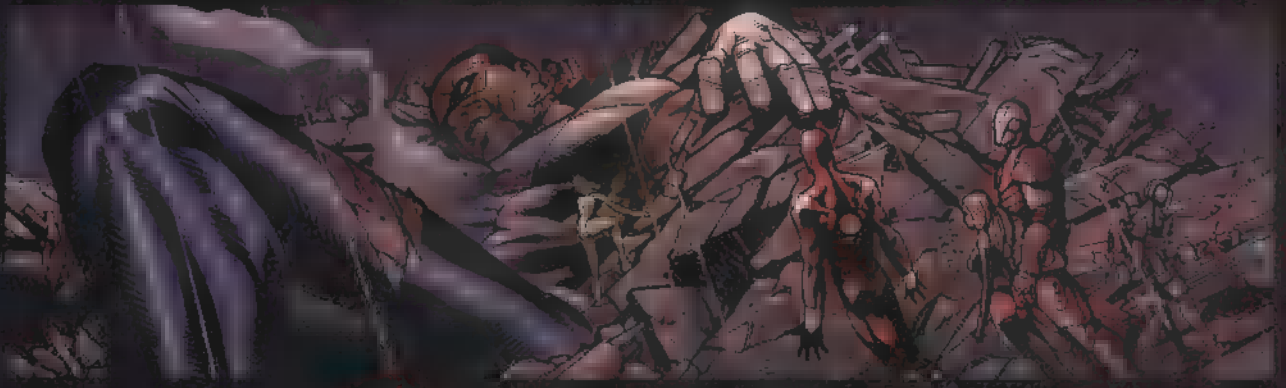
WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED,
REED? I THOUGHT YOU GAVE
HIM SOME KIND OF DIRECTIVES!
YOU SAID THIS GUY WOULD
BE JUST LIKE THE OLD
THOR!



SUE, PLEASE.
YOU'VE GOT TO
BELIEVE I
HAD--



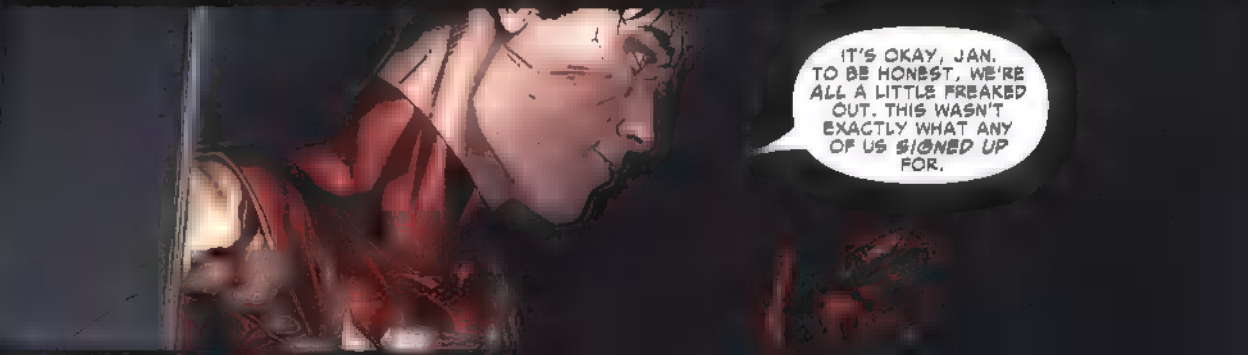
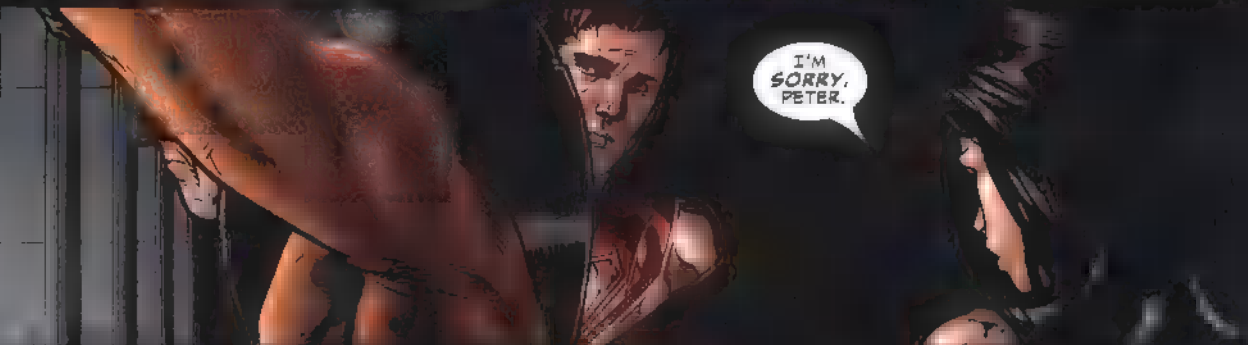
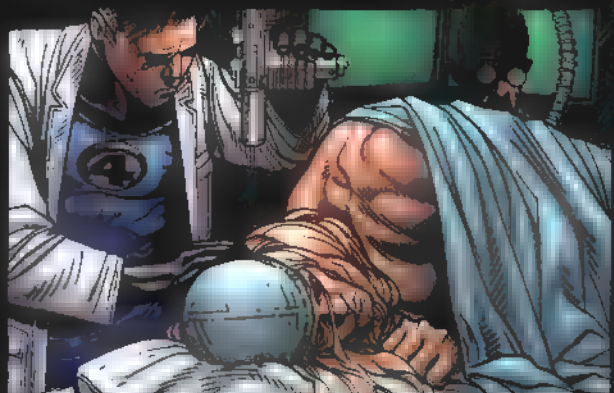
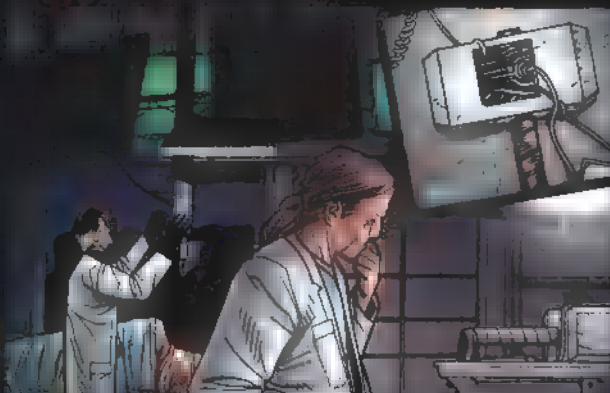
DON'T EVEN
SPEAK TO ME.
DON'T SAY A
DAMN WORD.



I THOUGHT
YOU SAID YOU
KNEW WHAT YOU
WERE DOING,
TONY.



I THOUGHT
WE WERE DOING
THIS SO NO
ONE ELSE GOT
HURT.





I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE WE CLONED A GOD.

DID YOU KNOW TONY HAD BEEN HOLDING ONTO THAT STRAND OF THOR'S HAIR SINCE THE FIRST MEETING OF THE AVENGERS?

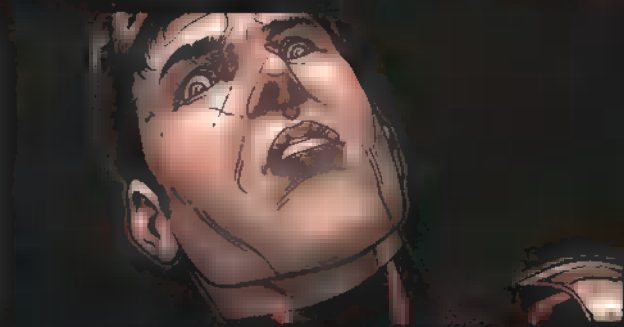
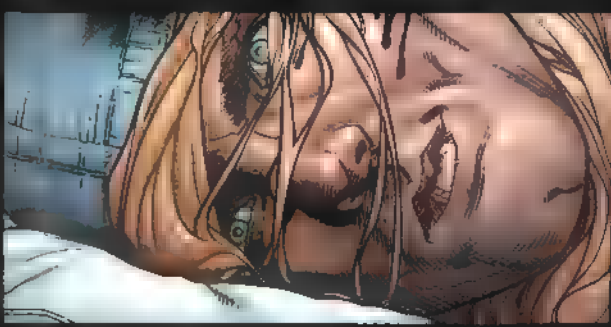
WHAT KIND OF MAN COMBS HIS FURNITURE FOR HAIR FOLLICLES ■ SKIN CELLS?

A GUY WITH A LOT OF FORESIGHT, I GUESS.



I JUST CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY OUR THOR-CLONE KILLED A MAN. IS HE MISSING A HUMAN CONSCIENCE?

DO WE NEED TO FUSE HIM WITH A DONALD BLAKE OR A JAKE OLSON TO HAVE HIM FUNCTION PROPERLY?



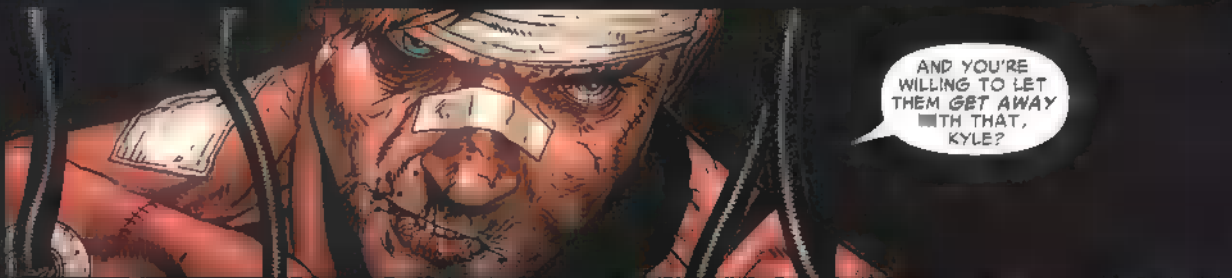
DO YOU EVER WONDER IF WE'VE PICKED THE RIGHT SIDE HERE, HANK?

APPEAL FOR AMNESTY?
ARE YOU INSANE? ■ JUST
PICKED UP ANOTHER TWENTY
SUPPORTERS, NIGHTHAWK.
TONY'S PEOPLE ARE
DISAPPEARING BY THE
HOUR.

SO WHAT? BILL'S DEAD
AND HALF OUR GUYS GOT
THROWN IN THIS NUMBER
FORTY-TWO COMPLEX...THIS
IS S.H.I.E.L.D. PENITENTIARY
REED RICHARDS WAS
BUILDING...



AND YOU'RE
WILLING TO LET
THEM GET AWAY
WITH THAT,
KYLE?

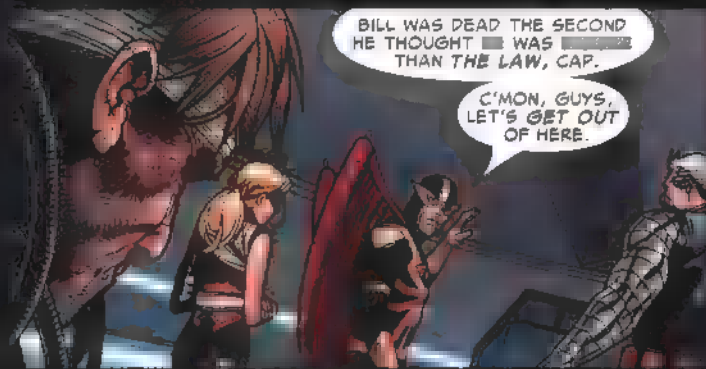


THE WAY I SEE IT, THEY CAN
DO ANYTHING THEY LIKE NOW THAT
THEY GOT THOR ON-SIDE.

THAT WASN'T THOR.
THAT WAS JUST ONE OF
THOSE FRANKENSTEIN'S
MONSTERS. THEY'VE BEEN
GROWING FOR THEIR
SUPER HERO ARMY. YOU
REALLY THINK THOR WOULD
HAVE MURDERED BILL
FOSTER?

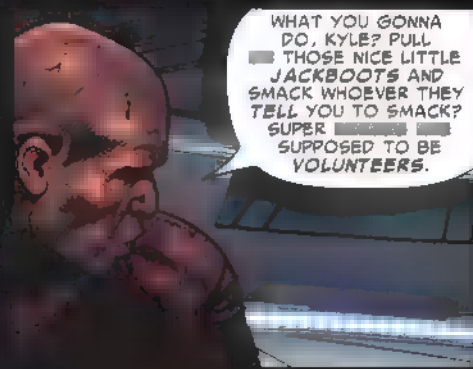
HOLD STILL
SO JANE AND I
CAN FINISH,
HUH?





BILL WAS DEAD THE SECOND HE THOUGHT ■ WAS ■ THAN THE LAW, CAP.

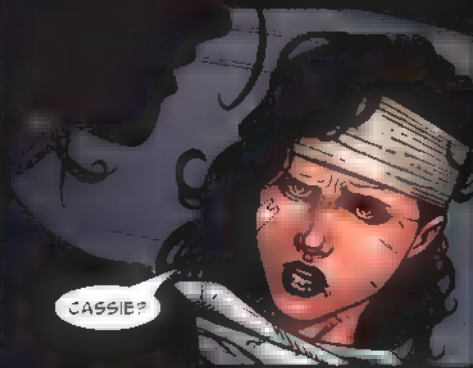
C'MON, GUYS, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.



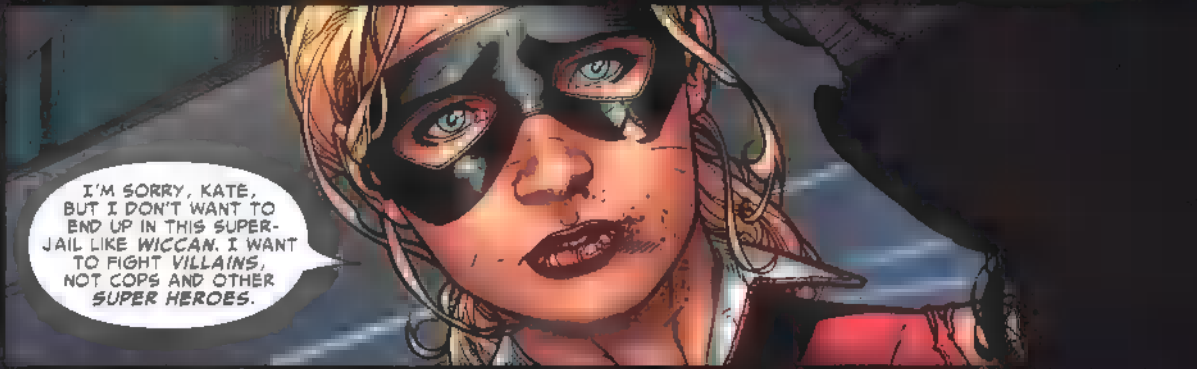
WHAT YOU GONNA DO, KYLE? PULL ■ THOSE NICE LITTLE JACKBOOTS AND SMACK WHOEVER THEY TELL YOU TO SMACK? SUPER ■ SUPPOSED TO BE VOLUNTEERS.



NO, WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE THE GOOD GUYS, CAGE.



CASSIE?



I'M SORRY, KATE, BUT I DON'T WANT TO END UP IN THIS SUPER-JAIL LIKE WICCAN. I WANT TO FIGHT VILLAINS, NOT COPS AND OTHER SUPER HEROES.



LET THEM GO IF THEIR FREEDOM MEANS SO LITTLE TO THEM.

IT'S TIME WE DITCHED THIS BASE FOR ■ NEW ■ ANYWAY.

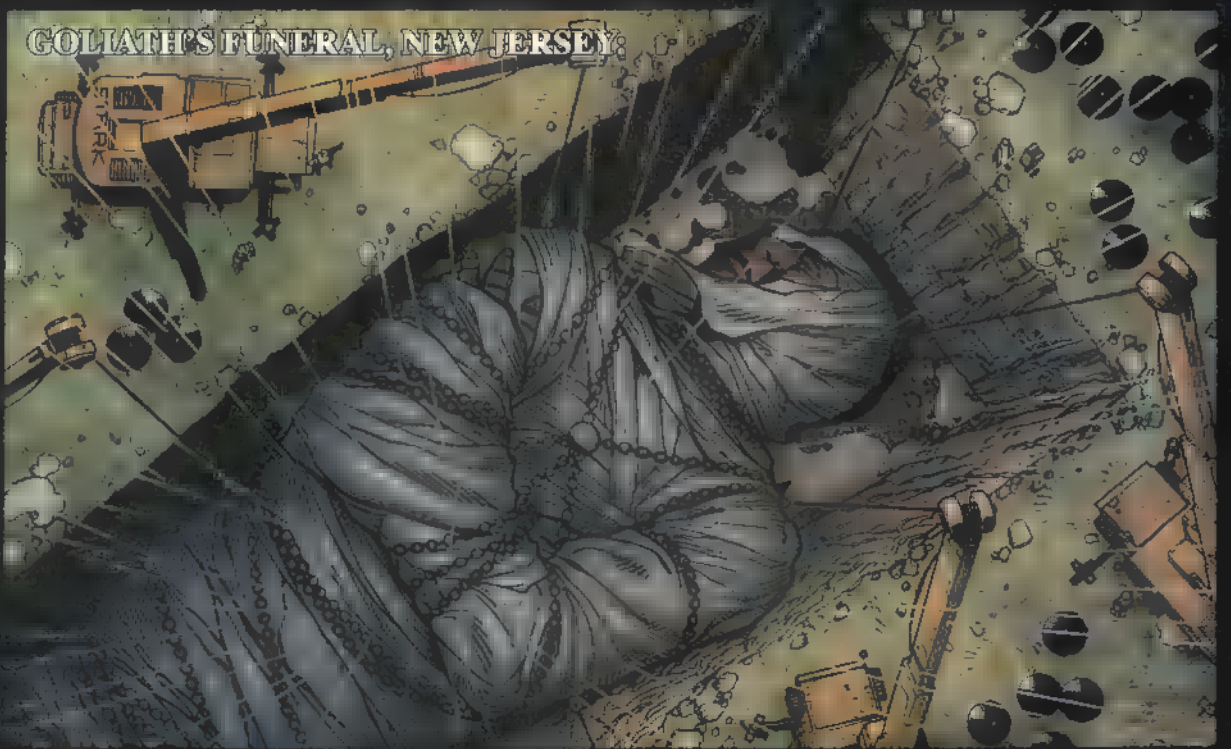


HE'S JUST ANOTHER OLD MAN SCARED OF THE FUTURE, CASSIE.

WON'T ■ HAPPY UNTIL ■ DAMN TEAM'S ■.



GOLIATH'S FUNERAL, NEW JERSEY:

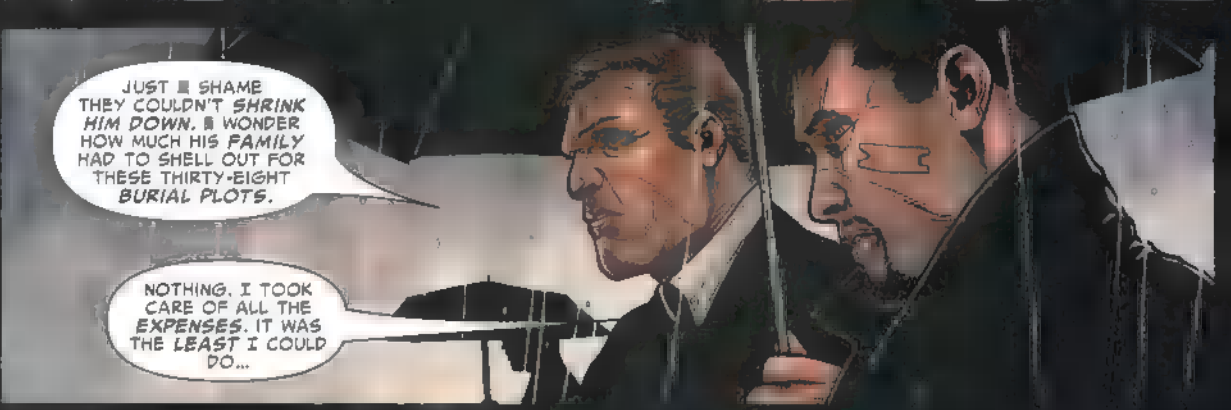


HELL OF A SEND-OFF, GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES.



GUY WAS A SUPER HERO, HAPPY, AND HE SAVED A LOT OF LIVES OVER THE YEARS. THAT'S SOMETHING WE CAN'T FORGET NO MATTER HOW BAD THIS GETS.

JUST ■ SHAME THEY COULDN'T SHRINK HIM DOWN. ■ WONDER HOW MUCH HIS FAMILY HAD TO SHELL OUT FOR THESE THIRTY-EIGHT BURIAL PLOTS.



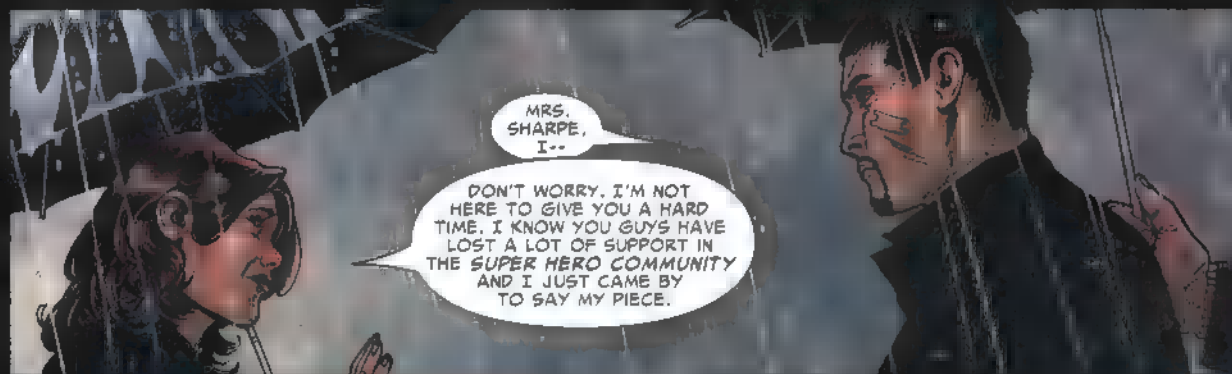
NOTHING. I TOOK CARE OF ALL THE EXPENSES. IT WAS THE LEAST I COULD DO...



...GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

HEADS UP, BOSS.

MISTER STARK?



MRS. SHARPE, I--

DON'T WORRY. I'M NOT HERE TO GIVE YOU A HARD TIME. I KNOW YOU GUYS HAVE LOST A LOT OF SUPPORT IN THE SUPER HERO COMMUNITY AND I JUST CAME BY TO SAY MY PIECE.



GOLIATH KNEW WHAT HE WAS DOING. HE WAS BREAKING A LAW DESIGNED TO SAVE PEOPLE'S LIVES.

IF HE'D ONLY GONE LEGITIMATE, HE'D STILL BE ALIVE. THIS IS NO MORE YOUR FAULT THAN A COP COULD BE BLAMED FOR SHOOTING A PUNK WHO PULLS A GUN ON HIM.



MRS. SHARPE...

SHH. I ALSO WANTED TO GIVE YOU THIS: MY SON DAMIEN'S FAVORITE TOY SINCE HE WAS THREE YEARS OLD...



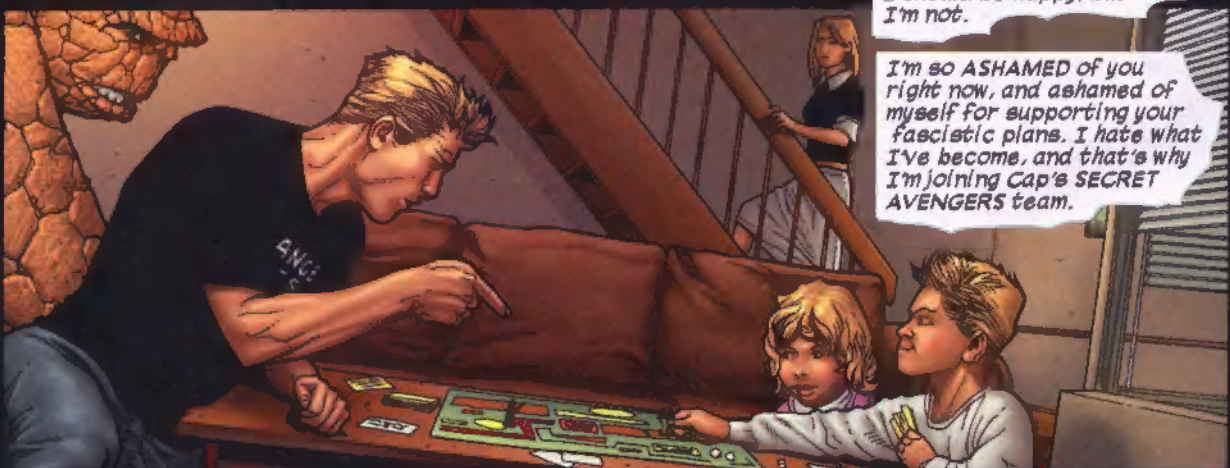
...JUST TO REMIND YOU WHY YOU'RE DOING THIS.



IS IT JUST ME
OR IS PETER PARKER
ACTING VERY, VERY
SUSPICIOUSLY?

My darling Reed...

I know Johnny's out of the
hospital and the family's
back together again. I know
I should be happy, but
I'm not.



I'm so ASHAMED of you
right now, and ashamed of
myself for supporting your
fascistic plans. I hate what
I've become, and that's why
I'm joining Cap's **SECRET
AVENGERS** team.



Please understand:
This is not another
cry for attention.
This is not me trying
to distract you from
your all-important
work.

This is because our hands are soaked in Bill
Foster's **BLOOD** and you're so blinded by your
graphs and social projections that you can't
even SEE it.

Johnny and I will be working UNDERGROUND from now on, and that's obviously no place for Franklin and Valeria.

That's why I've left them in your care and beg you to give them the time you have so often DENIED them in the past.

I also didn't want your last memory of me to be tainted with all the blazing fights we've had in recent weeks.

Reed

Hence the oily-fish dinner (good brain-food), the bottle of your favorite claret (an excellent antioxidant) and making love one final time (good for the immune system).

I hope I don't look like a coward for leaving this way. I hope you don't think I'm a bad wife or, worse still, a bad mother.

I'm doing this for the best of reasons and pray that your genius can RESOLVE this thing before one side ends up slaughtering the other.

I love you, Reed. More than anything in the world.

Please fix this.

Susan
xxx

AVENGERS TOWER:

SO HOW MANY
OF OUR GUYS ARE
WE LOSING?

MORE THAN WE
CAN AFFORD. A COUPLE
OF CAP'S PEOPLE ARE
TALKING ABOUT COMING
OVER, BUT THE BALANCE
HAS DEFINITELY TIPPED IN
THEIR FAVOR AFTER THIS.

MAYBE WE COULD JUST BRING FORWARD THIS
FIFTY STATE INITIATIVE THING. WOULDN'T
THESE NEW HEROES BE ABLE TO GET
THINGS UNDER CONTROL AGAIN?

YEAH, BUT THEY'RE STILL AT
LEAST A MONTH AWAY FROM BEING
FINISHED. WE NEED TO MOVE FAST AND
WE NEED PEOPLE WITH EXPERIENCE IN
SUPERHUMAN COMBAT...

YOU MEAN THIS LATEST
ITERATION OF THE
THUNDERBOLTS YOU'VE
ASSEMBLED?

AFTER WHAT JUST WENT DOWN,
IT'S THE ONLY COURSE OF ACTION
WE'VE GOT LEFT, JAN.

I SHOULD STRESS THAT THEIR
INVOLVEMENT IS **STRICTLY TEMPORARY**.
THIS IS JUST TO CAPTURE CAP'S TEAM,
AND THEY'LL ALL GO BACK TO JAIL
IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARDS.

EACH AND EVERY ONE OF
THEM WILL BE **CHIPPED AND
TAGGED**, THEIR EVERY
MOVEMENT MONITORED BY
**MICROSCOPIC
NANOBOTS**.

WELL, THEY
DON'T EXACTLY
LOOK **THRILLED**
ABOUT THE PROSPECT
OF TEAMING UP WITH
THE AVENGERS...

THAT'S
BECAUSE
THEY'RE
NOT NICE
PEOPLE.



TO BE
CONTINUED...